# WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

# 1999/2000 ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ended March 31, 2000

# Profile

On the edge of the Canadian prairie where the Opimihaw Creek flows into the South Saskatchewan River, the First Peoples of this country found peace and sustenance in a place that has changed very little over thousands of years. Countless generations have returned to this valley to feast, seek guidance, dance and tell stories. In the First Nations' community Wanuskewin is remembered as a meeting place, a place of spiritual renewal. The name **Wanuskewin** is a Cree word chosen by Elders to describe the history of the place. Loosely translated, **Wanuskewin** means *"seeking peace of mind"* or *"living in harmony"*.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a National Historic Site that brings to life the history and culture of the Northern Plains First Nations peoples. The 320-acre Park, located five kilometers north of the city of Saskatoon, was dedicated by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1989 and established by the province of Saskatchewan in 1992 as a living memorial to the people who have gathered on the site for over 6,000 years. The 31,000 square foot Visitor Centre and Park environs feature an Art Gallery, Gift Shop, Theatre, Archeology Lab, Museum, Restaurant and Meeting Facilities, Activity areas, Amphitheatre, Pow Wow Arbor, Tipi Village, Picnic sites and Sweat Lodge. Several kilometres of Interpretive Trails lead to tipi rings, bison jumps, a medicine wheel, bison rubbing stone and 19 historical habitation sites.

Stewardship of the Park and its resources rests with the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority established under the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Act of Saskatchewan. The Authority is also a registered charitable organization in Canada.

Early in the Park's planning stages an Elders' Committee issued a resolution on spiritual values in order to maintain the sacredness of what the First Nations believe had been bestowed upon them by the Great Spirit. Elders continue to provide an important advisory role on the cultural aspects of programming and development at the Park through the nonprofit corporation... Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Inc.

# Mission Statement

The mission of the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority is to "*Increase public awareness, understanding and appreciation of Northern Plains Indian culture through the effective operation of an internationally recognized heritage facility featuring integrated programs and services*".

# Table of Contents


| | |
|---|---|
| Park Act & Board of Directors | 4 |
| Park Objectives | 5 |
| Message from the Chairman | 6 |
| Operational Activities | 7 |
| Challenges | 8 |
| Future Direction | 9 |
| Sponsors & Supporters | 10 |
| Financial Statements | 11 |

# Park Act and Board Of Directors

The Wanuskewin Park Act was proclaimed in September 1989 by the Government of Saskatchewan, and a separate organization was established to operate the Park.

Each of the major stakeholders are represented in the Park's corporate board of directors: Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority, the City of Saskatoon, the Government of Saskatchewan, the Government of Canada, Meewasin Valley Authority, Wanuskewin Circle of Friends (volunteer body), Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and the University of Saskatchewan.

**The 1999-2000 WHPA Board of Directors:**

---

- **Cy Standing,** Chairman, Wanuskewin Heritage Park
- **Lloyd Brass,** Chairman, Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Inc.
- **Austin Beggs,** Friends of Wanuskewin
- **Ken Zeigler,** Friends of Wanuskewin
- **Dona Racette,** Friends of Wanuskewin
- **Gwen Charman,** Meewasin Valley Authority
- **Donna Birkmaier,** City of Saskatoon
- **Lynne Pearson,** University of Saskatchewan
- **Vernon Bellegarde,** Government of Saskatchewan
- **Judge Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond,** Friends of Wanuskewin
- **Vance McNab,** Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority
- **Ernie Walker,** University of Saskatchewan
- **Vacant,** Federal Government

# Park Objectives

1. **Cultural**
   To provide a focus for the expression of the cultural heritage of the Northern Plains Indians by preserving the site's spiritual character and artifacts, and provide opportunities for Indian cultural activities that promote and strengthen the Northern Plains Indian culture.

2. **Educational**
   To increase public knowledge regarding the Northern Plains Indian culture from pre-contact times to the present, the inter-dependence between society and the natural environment and the use of various scientific disciplines to understand the Northern Plains Indian cultural heritage and its importance to the present and the future.

3. **Tourism**
   To Market and promote the Park as an attraction of national and international significance, and to use the park to enhance the status of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan as destinations for tourists.

4. **Economic**
   To maximize direct employment and indirect commercial benefits in the Saskatoon area with particular emphasis on the benefits to Indian people.

5. **Research**
   To promote and foster multi-disciplinary scientific research to increase knowledge about the Wanuskewin Heritage Park site and the Northern Plains Indian peoples.

6. **Resource Management**
   To conserve archaeological, natural, and cultural resources and to manage natural site features in response to the needs of site interpretive programs and cultural activities.

7. **Development Model**
   To establish the park as a model for Indian involvement in such projects, and as a model for cooperative arrangements among the public and private sectors.

8. **Operation and Management**
   To achieve and maintain a level of financing from site revenue and other sources that will sustain the park's operation, and to manage the park in a manner that contributes to the attainment of the park's objectives.

# Message from the Chairman

The 1999/2000 operational year proved to be an interesting and challenging one for Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Our programs and services continue to provide an important link in bringing together all cultures with the Aboriginal culture of the Northern Plain Indian. In addition to numerous school groups, tourist groups, and groups from Saskatchewan, we are attracting more national and international visitors to the Park. These people are our best ambassadors when they return to their various homelands.

Funding for the Park remains a serious challenge. We continue to receive program support from the Federal government, core funding from the Provincial government and from the City of Saskatoon. However, our core funding for operational purposes, and funding to support and upgrade our infrastructure continue to be a concern.

An additional challenge for the Board occurred with the resignation of the Chief Operating Officer. To fill this void, the Park Board employed Dr. Ray Fast, for several months to operate the Park, improve efficiency and effectiveness, renew and strengthen relations with the various First Nations organizations and communities. And finally the Acting Chief Operating Officer had to assist the Board in it's search for a new Chief Executive Officer.

An exciting event for the Board and Staff – indeed, for the entire community is the forthcoming visit of his Royal Highness, Prince of Wales, to Wanuskewin Heritage park in April 2001. We look forward to his visit and believe that this publicity will greatly enhance attendance at the Park in 2001.

I conclude by thanking Wanuskewin Circle of Friends, the government of Saskatchewan, and the City of Saskatoon for their generous support of our Park. Finally, I thank my fellow Board Members, and the Elders Board, along with our staff for their service.

**Cy Standing**
**Chairman**

# Operational Activities

During the course of the year the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority (WHPA) was engaged in a number of educational and cultural activities involving over 43,500 visitors. Several of these initiatives held between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000 are hi-lighted below:

- In May, we hosted our Annual Pow wow, The turn out was excellent.
- The Wanuskewin International Dance Troupe was involved in the production "Dare to Dance" at the Centennial Auditorium and also in Regina at the Globe Theatre.
- Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Park attracted approximately 175 attendees. This perfect day was capped off with a mini Pow wow held at the Indian & Metis Friendship Center. This event was well attended "by about 800 people"
- In December, 400 children from Bishop Roberecki Catholic School Division visited our Park.
- Internationally acclaimed writer and photographer Courtney Milne gave a presentation where he took his audience on a visual tour with images and stories from the Spirit of the Land, a celebration of the spiritual landscapes of many Aboriginal cultures on Turtle Island.
- The first peoples' village at the Children's Festival where storytelling, hide tanning, crafts, and dance performances were enjoyed by thousands of children and their families.
- The week long Winter festival attracted more than 1100 visitors of whom 550 were school children.

Through-out the year, the visitor services department is responsible for welcoming and educating visitors from around the world. This is accomplished by daily programming, song & dance, overnight Tipi Village experiences, and events delivered by the friendly and hospitable staff.

The busiest time for the interpretive staff is during the school visits that occur mainly during May, June, September and October. The school programs that are offered are the Bison Supermarket, Tipi Raising, Arts & Crafts, Building Tour, Bison Hunt, and Dance program, where students learn the significance of the dancers and the Regalia of the dancers and the different types of songs and drumming.

During the summer tourist season, May to September long weekend, the park is opened from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and the regular programming includes daily interactive programs, guided trail walks, daily dance performances and craft demonstrators. Booked groups and schools are offered additional programming if requested.

The overnight Tipi Village program runs year round for school and community groups, families and others wanting a unique camping experience. Visitors stay overnight with a Tipi Village guide and get to interact with the guide in an intimate camp fire setting. Stories and life experiences are shared and a greater understanding and appreciation for other cultures is a result.

Archeological research under the leadership of Dr.Ernest Walker of the University of Saskatchewan continued throughout the summer.

The conference rooms were well used, resulting in a small profit for the first time in many years.

# Challenges

As the Park's infrastructure matures in age certain signs of wear and obsolesence are becoming evident. In particular the Visitor Center and Gift Shop's roof have been failing and require replacement, The mechanical systems (boilers, heat pumps, grinder pumps, hot water tanks, air units) and electrical systems required various levels of preventative and emergency maintenance including replacement of failing units and system components. Various operational problems were experienced with office support equipment including the copier, fax, LAN server and under capacity computer hardware. These problems have been taxing on the financial and human resources of the organization.

Annual attendance figures increased to 43,504 from 41,494 the year previous. Of particular note was the increase in visitation during the months of June and July (4,769). Part of this increase could be attributed to local marketing initiatives.

The accumulated deficit of $245,465, of which $19,363 was incurred in the current year, has continued to place significant financial pressures on Wanuskewin's ability to service existing debt, provide programming and meet operational overhead expenses. Although the Park experienced a deficit in 1999/2000 it is significantly lower than 1998/1999's, (121,300) The primary reason for this difference were cost cutting measures brought into effect during the year such as elimination of the business manager/overseas commercial operations, gallery curator, fund raising manager and no cost of living increases to staff. The Park experienced significant cuts in the Program areas in comparison to 1998/1998. These cuts cannot continue if Wanuskewin is to continue providing a quality program. The park negotiated a long-term loan Peace Hills Trust that would cover the line of credit and a portion of the Parks long standing payables. At the end of the year the business operations including assets were transferred from Wanuskewin heritage Park Inc. to Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority. By the end of the year the Park's long term liabilities and debt was $411,992 with a current portion of $125,200.

Park staff continue to face the challenges of containment of noxious weeds and woody stemmed plants in grassland areas. Management of riparian zones requires balancing the Park's beaver population and activities with the need to ensure aquatic habitats are preserved. Resource management and conservation continue to suffer due to a lack of funding support.

Due to continued financial constraints human resources were reduced to less than optimum levels from September through March. Retention of qualified personnel due to lack of budget for salary maintenance to match the rises in the cost of living and skill enhancement were problematic.

# Future Direction

The Park Board and management will be focusing their priorities in the following areas:

Further development of the Aboriginal Awareness Education Program (AAE) and converting marketing efforts into delivery of at least 20 workshops per year

Enhancing revenue streams through targeted marketing of our catering and meeting facilities and services with First Nations cuisine and Wanuskewin's tranquil location as key attributes

Diversifying revenue streams through alternative sources of self-generating activities

Improving operational cost effectiveness

Improving marketing and programming efforts to enhance visitations

Addressing concerns related to infrastructure issues

Securing the participation of the Federal Government in core operational funding and representation at the Board level

Reviewing and updating operational policies

Additional special speakers and theatre presentations developing a Living Culture Area where artisans will demonstrates and showcases their talents during the summer months.

KPMG

Financial Statements of

# WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

Year ended March 31, 2000

KPMG LLP
Chartered Accountants
600 – 128 Fourth Avenue South
Saskatoon SK S7K 1M8

Telephone (306) 934-6200
Telefax (306) 934-6233
www.kpmg.ca

# AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE BOARD

We have audited the balance sheet of Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority as at March 31, 2000 and the statements of operations and general fund balance and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at March 31, 2000 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Accountants

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
April 28, 2000

KPMG LLP, a Canadian owned limited liability partnership established under the laws of Ontario, is a member firm of KPMG International, a Swiss association.

# WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2000, with comparative figures for 1999

| | 2000 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|
| **Assets** | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash | $ 10,396 | $ - |
| Accounts receivable | 43,130 | 95,890 |
| Inventories | 123,221 | - |
| Prepaid expenses | 6,156 | 16,991 |
| | 182,903 | 112,881 |
| Capital assets (note 4) | 7,707,441 | 7,805,079 |
| Due from Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Inc. | - | 218,941 |
| | $ 7,890,344 | $ 8,136,901 |
| **Liabilities and Fund Balances** | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Outstanding cheques less cash in bank | $ - | $ 16,044 |
| Line of credit (note 5) | 19,958 | 316,462 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 219,919 | 250,744 |
| Current portion of long-term debt (note 6) | 125,200 | - |
| | 365,077 | 583,250 |
| Long-term debt (note 6) | 411,992 | - |
| Deferred contributions related to capital assets (note 7) | 6,924,734 | 7,345,747 |
| Fund balances: | | |
| Contribution related to land | 434,006 | 434,006 |
| General | (245,465) | (226,102) |
| | 188,541 | 207,904 |
| | $ 7,890,344 | $ 8,136,901 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

Director

Director

# WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

Statement of Operations and General Fund Balance

Year ended March 31, 2000, with comparative figures for 1999

| | 2000 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenue: | | |
| Grants | $ 714,827 | $ 742,487 |
| Amortization of deferred contributions | 495,013 | 498,446 |
| Donations | 146,156 | 77,741 |
| Admission fees and memberships | 126,572 | 137,721 |
| Programs and other | 92,326 | 240,313 |
| Occupancy and rental | 26,136 | 25,773 |
| | 1,601,030 | 1,722,481 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Amortization | 499,998 | 503,332 |
| Programs | 394,410 | 541,707 |
| Executive | 366,598 | 321,563 |
| Resource management | 217,625 | 200,907 |
| Marketing | 102,533 | 133,778 |
| Corporate development | 28,739 | 132,556 |
| Human resource development | 10,490 | 9,943 |
| | 1,620,393 | 1,843,786 |
| Excess of expenses over revenue | (19,363) | (121,305) |
| General fund balance, beginning of year | (226,102) | (104,797) |
| General fund balance, end of year | $ (245,465) | $ (226,102) |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2000, with comparative figures for 1999

| | 2000 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|
| Cash provided by (used in): | | |
| Operations: | | |
| Excess of expenses over revenue | $ (19,363) | $ (121,305) |
| Items not requiring (providing) an outlay of cash: | | |
| Depreciation | 499,998 | 503,332 |
| Amortization of deferred contributions | (495,013) | (498,446) |
| Deferred grants for capital asset purchases | - | (57,299) |
| Change in non-cash operating working capital: | | |
| Accounts receivable | 68,094 | 22,284 |
| Prepaid expenses | 12,340 | 25,917 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (48,479) | 133,294 |
| | 17,577 | 7,777 |
| Investing: | | |
| Purchase of capital assets | (79,433) | (18,303) |
| Grant funding of capital assets | 74,000 | - |
| | (5,433) | (18,303) |
| Financing: | | |
| Advances to Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Inc. | (113,663) | (100) |
| Increase in long-term debt | 450,000 | - |
| Repayments of long-term debt | (25,537) | - |
| | 310,800 | (100) |
| Increase (decrease) in cash position | 322,944 | (10,626) |
| Cash position, beginning of year | (332,506) | (321,880) |
| Cash position, end of year | $ (9,562) | $ (332,506) |
| Interest paid during the year | $ 36,636 | $ 34,490 |

Cash position consists of cash, outstanding cheques less cash in bank, and line of credit.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2000

---

1. **Purpose of Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority:**

   Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority ("WHPA") (formerly Wanuskewin Heritage Park Corporation) was established to operate the Wanuskewin Heritage Park which commenced full time commercial operations on June 1, 1992. WHPA is a registered charity (#0913384-52).

   On March 29, 2000, WHPA acquired the restaurant and gift shop operations from Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Inc. at the book value of the assets and liabilities.

2. **Going concern:**

   These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes the realization of assets and liquidation of liabilities in the normal course of business. The application of the going concern concept is dependent on WHPA's ability to ensure revenue sources meet or exceed ongoing expenses and obligations.

3. **Significant accounting policies:**

   (a) Revenue and expense recognition:

   Revenue and expenses are recorded in the financial statements on the accrual basis. Under this method revenue is recognized in the fiscal period during which it becomes receivable. Expenses are recorded when goods or services are received.

   (b) Inventories:

   Inventories of restaurant supplies and gift shop products are carried at the lower of cost, on a first-in, first-out basis, and net realizable value.

**3. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

(c) Capital assets and deferred contributions:

Capital assets are stated at cost and depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the assets on a straight-line basis at the following rates:

| Asset | Rate |
|---|---|
| Equipment | 10% |
| Vehicles | 20% |
| Buildings and site development | 4% |

Funding, consisting mainly of grants and donations, received for capital asset acquisitions is deferred and amortized on the same basis as the asset to which it relates is depreciated.

(d) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenue and expenses for the reporting period. Actual amounts may differ from these estimates.

**4. Capital assets:**

| | Cost | Accumulated amortization | 2000 Net book value | 1999 Net book value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Park site: | | | | |
| Land | $ 434,006 | $ - | $ 434,006 | $ 434,006 |
| Buildings and site development | 9,004,389 | 2,821,378 | 6,183,011 | 6,543,187 |
| Park site - Phase II: | | | | |
| Site improvements and interpretive displays | 1,271,979 | 554,740 | 717,239 | 769,662 |
| Other: | | | | |
| Equipment and vehicles | 117,108 | 66,850 | 50,258 | 58,224 |
| | 10,827,482 | 3,442,968 | 7,384,514 | 7,805,079 |
| Gift Shop: | | | | |
| Equipment | 52,895 | 37,624 | 15,271 | - |
| Building improvements | 119,855 | 37,570 | 82,285 | - |
| Restaurant: | | | | |
| Equipment | 137,048 | 105,653 | 31,395 | - |
| Building improvements | 281,390 | 87,414 | 193,976 | - |
| | 591,188 | 268,261 | 322,927 | - |
| | $ 11,418,670 | $ 3,711,229 | $ 7,707,441 | $ 7,805,079 |

**5. Line of credit:**

Peace Hills Trust $50,000 line of credit facility due August 31, 2000 bears interest at prime plus 2% and is secured by a general security agreement.

6. **Long-term debt:**

| | 2000 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|
| Peace Hills Trust loan at fixed rate of 8.25% repayable in monthly instalments of $9,178 including interest, due November 1, 2004. Secured by general security agreement providing a first charge over all asset of WHPA. | $ 424,463 | $ - |
| Peace Hills Trust loan at prime rate plus 2% repayable in monthly instalments of $4,566 including interest, due April 1, 2002. Secured by general security agreement providing a first charge over all assets relating to the gift shop and restaurant. | 112,729 | - |
| | 537,192 | - |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 125,200 | - |
| | $ 411,992 | $ - |

Interest incurred on long-term debt was $14,094 for the year.

The aggregate expected repayments of long-term debt for each of the next five years are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2001 | $ 125,200 |
| 2002 | 135,600 |
| 2003 | 106,530 |
| 2004 | 99,800 |
| 2005 | 70,062 |
| | $ 537,192 |

**7. Deferred contributions related to capital assets:**

| | Contributions | Accumulated amortization | 2000 Net Book Value | 1999 Net Book Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Park site: | | | | |
| Buildings and site development | $ 9,004,379 | $ 2,821,377 | $ 6,183,002 | $ 6,543,177 |
| Park site - Phase II: | | | | |
| Site improvements and interpretive displays | 1,270,179 | 554,740 | 715,439 | 769,662 |
| Other: | | | | |
| Equipment and vehicle | 60,213 | 33,920 | 26,293 | 32,908 |
| | $ 10,334,771 | $ 3,410,037 | $ 6,924,734 | $ 7,345,747 |